

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /031 W
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P 151450Z DEC 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3307

S E C R E T USNATO 6151

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJ: MIDDLE EAST CONSULTATIONS IN NATO: FOLLOW-UP TO NAC MIN-
ISTERIAL

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS SECRETARY

1. US OFFICIALS FROM WASHINGTON HAVE PROMISED IN NAC TO INFORM COUNCIL ABOUT FORTHCOMING GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS. ALLIED NON-PARTICIPANTS ARE INTERESTED IN BEING INFORMED REGULARLY OF MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS. SENSE OF TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONSHIP THAT WE ARE SEEKING TO INSTILL IN EUROPEANS WILL AMOUNT TO HOLLOW WORDS UNLESS US MAKES EFFORT TO KEEP ALLIES INFORMED ABOUT WHAT THEY SEE AS THE PARAMOUNT CURRENT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEM.

2. US NEED NOT INVITE ALLIES TO HELP SHAPE NEGOTIATING POLICY IN GENEVA. IN FACT, WE COULD PROBABLY SATISFY THEIR NEEDS WITH A COMBINATION OF: A) NOTIFICATION BY REGULAR STATUS REPORTS CIRCULATED HERE BY LETTER; B) ORAL BRIEFINGS IN NAC ON SIGNIFICANT NEW DEVELOPMENTS UNDER "ANY OTHER BUSINESS"; AND C) FULL NAC CONSULTATIONS ONLY IF AND WHEN US (OR OTHERS) BELIEVE ALLIED SECURITY IS THREATENED AND WISH TO PROPOSE JOINT OR HARMONIZED ACTION.

3. DURING NAC MINISTERIAL MOST IF NOT ALL ALLIED FONMINS EXPRESSED DESIRE FOR CONTINUED AND ENHANCED SHARING OF INFORMATION ON MIDDLE EAST SITUATION IN FUTURE. ALTHOUGH
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SECRETARY'S SPEECH IN NAC DID NOT CALL SPECIFICALLY FOR RENEWED MIDDLE

EAST CONSULTATIONS, THEY WILL RECALL STATEMENT THAT "THE MOST URGENT ISSUE IS THE DISCUSSION OF PROBLEMS

ARISING OUTSIDE THE ALLIANCE AREA WHICH MAY NEVERTHELESS AFFECT THE SECURITY AND PROGRESS OF THE ATLANTIC AREA," AND THAT "THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE FRANKLY AND FULLY IN THIS ENTERPRISE." THEY WILL ALSO HAVE NOTED SYG LUNS' OBLIQUE SUGGESTIONS TO US IN PRIVATE MEETING -- THAT CONSULTATIONS SHOULD BE HELD EVEN "ON MATTER INVOLVING ONLY ONE MEMBER OF THE ALLIANCE".

4. SHOULD THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION AGAIN DETERIORATE TO THE POINT WHERE THE US BELIEVES THE ALLIES MUST ACT QUICKLY AND IN UNISON TO MAINTAIN THEIR SECURITY, WE WILL NEED TO HAVE DONE THE NECESSARY ADVANCE GROUNDWORK BY KEEPING THE ALLIES APPRISED OF THE SITUATION.

5. AS POINTED OUT DURING LONDON MEETING WITH CHIEFS OF MISSIONS, WE ALSO NEED TO CONTINUE TO MAKE CLEAR TO THE ALLIES THAT CONSULTATIONS MUST BE RECIPROCAL. THE ALLIES SHOULD INFORM COUNCIL ABOUT WHAT THEY ARE DOING THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS TO INFLUENCE THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, AND AGREE NOT TO MISUSE THE PRIVILEGED INFORMATION THAT THE US AS THE PRINCIPAL WESTERN PARTICIPANT IN THE GENEVA TALKS MAY BE IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE. . ON THE OTHER HAND, FOR THE US TO HOLD ITS CARDS SO CLOSE TO ITS CHEST THAT ALLIES FIND THEMSELVES RELYING ON THE PRESS FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE TALKS WILL BE SEEN AS AN INVITATION TO THE EC-NINE AND OTHERS TO PURSUE TO AN EVEN GREATER EXTENT AND WITH NO SENSE OF GUILT OR EMBARRASSMENT

,
A SEPARATE MODUS VIVENDI WITH THE ARABS. SUCH A DEVELOPMENT COULD UNDERMINE THE TALKS. IT WOULD ALSO UNDERMINE US GOAL OF KEEPING EC-NINE INTEGRATION WITHIN THE WIDER ATLANTIC FRAMEWORK, AND WOULD CAST A PALL OVER SECSTATE'S PROPOSAL FOR BROAD COOPERATION AMONG THE MAJOR DEVELOPED ENERGY CONSUMER NATIONS, WHICH LIKE THE ATLANTIC DECLARATION ITSELF DEPENDS ON A SENSE OF SHARED INTEREST AMONG THE US AND ITS EUROPEAN ALLIES.

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6. FOR THESE REASONS, I HOPE US WILL ENSURE THAT USNATO IS AUTHORIZED TO PROVIDE TIMELY INFORMATION TO ALLIED PERMREPS ON THE COURSE OF GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS. REQUEST GUIDANCE. RUMSFELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 02 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NATO06151
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731255/abqcedxo.tel
Line Count: 102
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Aug-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <15-Oct-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MIDDLE EAST CONSULTATIONS IN NATO: FOLLOW-UP TO NAC MIN- ISTERIAL
TAGS: PFOR, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005